

The
Little Brown Church
in the Valley

Coldwater Canyon Avenue

Near Moor Park Avenue

JOHN H. WELLS

Minister

HOURS OF SERVICE

Sunday

9:30 A.M. Sunday School

10:30 A.M. Morning Worhsip

7:30 P.M. Evening Service

Thursday

7:30 P.M. Prayer Meeting

All Are Invited

No Collection Plates Passed

HISTORY

At a meeting of representatives of the principal religious groups, such as the Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Congregational churches, the district known as Studio City, extending from Ventura to Magnolia Boulevards, and from Colfax to Woodman Avenues, was allotted to the Christian Church.

This plan precludes religious rivalry, competition, and over-lapping, and commends itself to thinking people. Under this plan the church accepting the allotted territory, attempts to formulate a policy and render a ministry that will meet, as far as is consistent with the teaching and practice of the New Testament, the needs of people of all denominations.

Should questions arise concerning faith and practice, the plain statements in the New Testament will take precedence over denominational points of view.

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The religious group known as the Christian Church, came into existence about one hundred and thirty years ago to plead for Christian unity. These people believed that the restoration of the New Testament Church in name, doctrine and practice, would make this unity possible.

Since its inception the Christian Church has insisted that the language of the New Testament is simple enough for all to understand, and that any attempt to formulate a creed would only add to confusion and division.

Consequently it has refused to form itself into an ecclesiasticism which might clothe any man, or group of men with the authority to legislate, or write any creed that might influence the thinking of the members of the local congregations.

However the individual minister in instructing his own members, or in giving information to those desiring to know what the Church teaches, finds it profitable to express in written word or in sermon, his own understanding of the doctrines of the New Testament.

When he does this, he speaks only for himself. His views do not necessarily represent the opinions held by the members of his congregation, or those subscribed to by other ministers of his Church.

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The members of the Christian Church agree regarding the following three tenets.

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

The Bible is the Word of God. Especially where the New Testament speaks, its voice is final in all matters of faith and practice.

The plan of salvation should be taught as it was taught by Jesus. It should be accepted as it was

accepted by those first Christians whose conversions are recorded in the Fifth Book of the New Testament.

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With the foregoing in mind, the minister of the Little Brown Church, desires to set forth in the following statements, his own doctrine and philosophy. Upon that philosophy and that doctrine, his sermons will be based, and the policy of the Church determined during his pastorate.

I believe in God.

I believe in a prayer answering God. The days of miracles have not passed. When the conditions are met, God will do greater things for man today, than He has ever done. God is a God of Power, therefore all things are possible. God respects man's intellect and never asks him to do violence to it. All concepts of God must be intelligent concepts.

I believe that God is a God of Holiness.

God is a governor of a moral universe. He will not tolerate sin. His wrath and His disapproval rest upon all sin, and upon men who delight in sinning.

I believe that God is a God of Love.

There is no language that can describe this love. Yet the sentimental concept that makes God too kind to deal with sin, leaves the world in a state of moral chaos. Sin grows with the belief that there can be no punishment for sin — no hell.

I believe in Jesus.

Jesus claimed to be one with the Father. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." While taking upon Himself the form of a man, He was more than a man. Jesus claimed the right to forgive sin. I believe that Jesus was God revealed in human form. He is my Lord and my God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is more than an influence. He was always referred to by Jesus as a Person. He lives in the world today. He operates in the lives of born-again Christians, to make Christ real and to make communion with God a marvelous experience.

I believe in the Bible.

The Bible is the Word of God. It is primarily a book of religion. It should not be used as a scientific text-book. The Bible should not be pitted against Science, nor Science against the Bible. I read the Bible to learn about God, about man, and about life. I read of the things of matter to learn about the material universe. When a scientific fact clearly demonstrated, seems at variance with the Word of God, I usually find the variance not in the Bible, but in my interpretation of my own reading.

I believe in the New Birth.

Man's heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. The natural man cannot comprehend that which is spiritual. From birth until death, the influence of home, school, church, and society, are brought to

bear to shape and control his life. Man however cannot be changed by either education or discipline. He may be influenced by them, but actual change must come from an overmastering passion within. Only new attitudes will produce new acts.

Our best psychologists use other words and phrases, but they see the need of the New Birth and teach it. Jesus said "You must be born again." That, as I understand it, involves self moving out, and Christ moving in. It means that life becomes Christ-centered, rather than self-centered. It means that the individual actually becomes a new creature.

I believe in the Cross.

I believe in the doctrine of the Attonement. It is not easy to discuss. It is experienced without rationalization. No so-called theory of the Attone-ment seems adequate. That Jesus voluntarily laid down His life, cannot be denied. That His supreme mission was to die upon the cross is clearly taught in the Scriptures.

The Jews expected to receive divine favor and forgiveness of sin through the old order of animal sacrifice. That this same favor and forgiveness accrues to those who look upon Jesus as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world, was definitely believed by the Apostle Paul and by the early Christians.

I believe that Jesus died to save the world. Because He died, I have eternal life. To me, the cross is more than a symbol. The death of Jesus is more to me than a martyr's death. I do not

understand it, but I believe that my salvation is the result of Christ having given His life a ransom for many.

I believe in the plan of salvation set forth by Jesus and the Apostles.

Jesus taught that in order to be saved, men must believe on Him. He also said that men must repent of their sins. Jesus said "Whosoever confesses me before men, him will I also confess before the Father." He also said "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved."

So taking Jesus at His word, to be saved I must do as He tells me. That, I believe, is to repent, confess Him and be baptised.

I believe baptism is an ordinance that only has significance as it follows faith, confession, and repentance. Therefore I see no need of infant baptism. I do not believe that an unbaptised baby will be deprived of any of the Father's love. We are free moral agents. Each one must make his own choice. Until such a time as one is capable of making a decision for or against Christ, I believe his position before God is secure.

I believe that baptism involves immersion in water. I believe that Jesus was immersed and that He taught it. Because I believe as I do, to me baptism, like faith and repentance, is essential. He who believes otherwise, must be true to the light as he sees it.

It is however, regrettable that all men everywhere who name the name of Christ, are not

willing to discard human opinions and follow the plain teachings of the New Testament. If Christian unity is ever to be realized and if the state of confusion existing in men's minds is ever to be cleared up—if the Church is ever to have the influence it should have in the world—then those who claim to love the Lord must be willing to accept some authority. I believe the New Testament to be this authority.

I believe in the Church.

I believe in the invisible church to which belong all those who are saved. I believe also in the visible church, organized to serve society. The church should serve in four ways:

The church must provide a place of worship and set up an order of service that will make men aware of the presence of God. Frayed nerves, heartaches, muddled thinking, loneliness—so many are in need of a worship service that brings comfort, release, forgiveness, and peace.

The church must teach men the way of life. The mind of Christ must be interpreted afresh in the light of changing conditions. Men must live in this world as well as in the world to come. The church must have something to say about economics, social conditions, race prejudices, war.

That which the church has to say in the days just ahead, must not be voiced in vague generalities. Very likely the Church will endure severe persecution if it courageously faces selfishness, greed, and

other evils. But it must not be blind to its opportunity.

Men who want to work must be given that right. The social order must be revamped to make that possible. Good health and medical care must be as accessible as free public education is to our children.

Man must have a living wage and sufficient leisure to develop himself along cultural and spiritual lines. He must not be exploited by his fellow-man. Cooperation must take the place of competition.

Man must not be used as cannon-fodder to fight battles not his own, or to solve problems he did not create and for which he is not responsible. The church must not endorse war. It is foolish and futile; it is sinful.

The church must be a force in the community, taking its stand with the under-privileged and needy. It must fight all social and economic injustice. It must again raise its voice against the liquor traffic and against all social sins.

The church must be a fellowship. It must generate a spirit of love and mutual understanding that will warm the hearts of all those who need its ministry.

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I believe in the Christian religion.

I do not think of Christianity as being one of the leading religions of the world. To me it is

the only true religion. I believe all other religions will one day acknowledge the supremacy of Christ, and that only through that acknowledgement can their diversant teachings ever be harmonized.

The Christian religion is a philosophy of life. There are truths to be believed. It does make a difference what a man believes. We are the product of our thinking.

The Christian religion is a great ecstasy. It is fellowship with God. Being filled by His Holy Spirit, one is in tune with the Infinite. Man becomes a partaker of divine nature. He has access to energy and spiritual power that enrich him physically, mentally and morally — that fit him for victorious living.

The Christian religion is a code of morals. It is not only something to believe — it is a life to live. The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount will enable one to determine just what constitutes Christian morality.

The Christian religion is sacrificial service. The church can be proud of its record of ministry to those in need. Every great philanthropic urge that has been expressed, has had its inception in the Christian religion. The hospital, the orphanage, the university — they all are products of the church.

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If you are a Christian we invite you to take the challenge of Christ seriously in this day when the need is so great. We invite you to identify yourself with the work we are trying to do.

If you are willing to follow Jesus in the way taught in the New Testament, and unite with our church, please sign your name below and mail.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

The Little Brown Church maintains a resident minister who will be glad to serve you in any way. Address him: 4418 Coldwater Canyon Ave., North Hollywood, Calif.

The Little Chapel is never locked. Its doors stand ajar night and day.